

# Budget Unit Brief

## FY 2017



## All-Terrain Vehicle Registration Fee Fund

### Background

The All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Registration Fee Fund is administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with Administrative Rules approved by the Natural Resource Commission (NRC). The Fund consists of revenue from ATV registration fees, federal funds, and other various sources related to the regulation of ATVs. The Fund is dedicated to safety education and grants to private ATV groups for the operation, development, and maintenance of ATV trails. Grants may also be awarded for the purchase of land to be utilized for ATV parks. Money in the Fund does not revert to the General Fund.

### Safety Education

Safety education is a major expenditure for the Fund. All riders between the ages of 12 and 17 must earn an education certificate. The aim of safety education is to reduce the rate of accidents, injuries, property damage, and fatalities due to ATV operation. Courses teach students where to ride an ATV, ATV maintenance, and environmental concerns regarding ATV use. Riders have two options to earn an education certificate. The first option is the DNR's ATV Education Program. To pass the Program, students must demonstrate driving skills learned in class. There is no written test. Upon completion, students are awarded an education certificate. The second option is an online certification offered by the ATV Safety Institute (ASI). The DNR collaborated with the ASI to create an online curriculum for issuing education certificates. The ASI Course teaches state-specific information, how to operate ATVs, safety gear, personal responsibility, and conservation principles.

### Cost-Share Program

A second major expenditure is the Cost-Share Program. The Department must allocate no less than 50.0% of the ATV Registration Fee Fund to the Cost-Share Program. This money is allocated to incorporated private ATV groups and political subdivisions for the operation, development, and maintenance of ATV trails. This includes the purchase of machinery, materials, and other activities related to trail development. The ATV Cost-Share Program grants are subject to the endorsement of an approval committee and final consent of the Department Director. The approval committee consists of three members appointed by the NRC and two members appointed by the President of the Off-Highway Vehicle Association.

Cost-Share grants may also be used to purchase land for the development of ATV parks. In addition to Committee and Director approval, Land Acquisition Grants require final approval of the NRC. Eligible proposals must be financially and environmentally sustainable. Prospective ATV parks are limited to previously disturbed areas, and a local political subdivision must support the park.

### Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [321](#)

[571](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapters [28](#), [46](#), and [50](#)

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### More Information

Iowa DNR Off Highway Vehicle webpage: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Things-to-Do/Off-Highway-Vehicles/OHV-Registration>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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